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A Farmer's Prayer to Mary

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A FARMER'S PRAYER *to* MARY

From THE RURAL LIFE PRAYERBOOK •



• Published by The National Catholic Rural Life Conference

NATIONAL CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE CONFERENCE

3801 Grand Avenue

Des Moines 12, Iowa



HOLY MOTHER MARY, we all rejoice with you today on the Feast of your glorious Assumption into Heaven. Long ago in the garden of Eden, our first parents, Adam and Eve, were told that they would have to earn their bread in the sweat of their brow, and that the earth would be cursed in their work, bringing forth thorns and thistles. Now, after Christ our Redeemer has come, and taught us how to make use of the thorns and thistles of this life, and turn them into blessings, you, like Him, have been taken up body and soul into Heaven. There, with your Divine Son, you await our coming, and prepare a place for us. Mother Mary, it is a great comfort to us to realize that your precious body, the tabernacle of the Infant Christ, is now in Heaven with Him. Your being taken into Heaven is also, like the Resurrection of Christ's Body, a pledge to us of the Resurrection of our own bodies. It is wonderful to think that these hands, with which we earn our bread now in the sweat of our brow, will, because of the merits of Christ, one day, with our bodies, be glorified forever in heaven. O most pure Virgin Mary, help us realize this as we go about our work from day to day. Help

us have great respect for these bodies of ours, and for those of others because we recognize in them the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and we look forward to seeing each other, body and soul, with you and your Son, Jesus Christ, forever in Heaven. *Amen.*

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS

By Most Reverend Peter W. Bartholome, D.D.

O BLESSED LADY OF THE FIELDS, who loved the land of thy native Galilee, who watched the Tiller of the Earth and the Shepherd of the Flock go out and return from Nazareth, who lived with and loved the rural folk of the village, look down graciously upon the fields and pastures of this, thy adopted land. Make our homes sanctuaries of Christ as was thy home. Make our fields fertile and abundant in the harvest. Help us to understand more fully the dignity of our toil and the merit it requires when offered through thee to Thy Divine Son, Jesus Christ, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever and ever. *Amen.*

THE MAGNIFICAT

Mary's Prayer of Thanksgiving

My soul magnifies the Lord;
And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour,
Because He has regarded the humility of His
 handmaid : for behold from henceforth all
 generations shall call me blessed,
Because He that is mighty has done great
 things for me, and holy is His name,
And His mercy is from generation unto generation
 to those that fear Him.
He has showed might with His arm; He has
 scattered the proud in the conceit of their
 heart.
He has put down the mighty from their seat,
 and has exalted the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things, and
 the rich He has sent away empty.
He has protected Israel, His servant, being
 mindful of His mercy,
As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to
 His posterity forever.